

SHOREVIEWS

Shoreview City Newsletter

Shoreview Receives AAA Bond Rating



Standard and Poor's (S & P) recently upgraded the City's bond rating to AAA, the highest bond

rating awarded. This represents the second upgrade to the City's bond rating in the past 13 months and is a statement of confidence in the City's current and future financial stability.

The analyst at Standard and Poor's reported to City staff that Shoreview is dealing with the same economic factors that other cities are facing, and that we are managing our way through in a different way. Shoreview has a great mix of commercial development, with development projects in process, and three TIF districts that will roll off in the next few years. Shoreview's income levels have

maintained and remained stable at a time when they have seen income levels decline across many different regions. Shoreview has great management and great management policies, low debt levels, and is an all-around solid community. Shoreview isn't relying on state aid to support operations, and has budgeted conservatively, which has helped the City improve surpluses and build appropriate fund balances. Some of the factors noted in the written analysis are shown in the box.

Noted characteristics included in Standard & Poor's Shoreview analysis

- Steadily growing diverse employment base
- The City's very strong income and wealth characteristics
- Conservative and strong financial management policies (debt and fund balances)
- Maintenance of very strong reserves
- Extensive long-term financial planning
- Low to moderate debt burden
- Rapid retirement of debt (58% in 10 years)
- Very diverse 14.3% of total net tax capacity among the 10 leading taxpayers
- Extremely strong market value (\$115,352 per capita)

Thank you residents for your patience and understanding during our recycling provider transition.

Allied Waste Services
New Recycling Provider
First pickup week of Jan. 10
See page 2 for more details



ShoreViews has a new look

In order to communicate to residents in a more timely manner, staff has reduced the number of large ShoreViews Newsletter and Park and Recreation catalogs to three issues. In addition, three smaller newsletters (like the one you are currently reading) will be sent out. See the following 2011 schedule:

January: smaller ShoreViews
 March: ShoreViews with Spring and Summer Park and Rec Catalog
 May: smaller ShoreViews
 July: larger ShoreViews with Fall Park and Rec Catalog
 September: smaller ShoreViews
 November: larger ShoreViews with Winter Park and Rec Catalog

Mayor Sandy Martin indicated, "Shoreview is very honored to receive a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's. It is clearly a reflection of the City's sound financial management practices and excellent financial condition. Our Finance Director Jeanne Haapala deserves a tremendous amount of the credit for this rating, and it would not have been accomplished without her outstanding work on the City's five-year operating plan, comprehensive infrastructure replacement plan and utility fund projections."

In Minnesota, only 21 other cities have received a AAA rating from either S & P or Moody's. A complete copy of Standard & Poor's written analysis is available on the City's website at www.shoreviewmn.gov.



Advantage Shoreview: Business Partnership Loan Program Launched

Shoreview is a distinctive and vibrant community where nearly 27,000 residents and 14,000 employees enjoy one of the most desirable places to live and do business in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The City of Shoreview places a high priority on fostering a positive business environment and is committed to building strong relationships with our valued business community, with the retention and expansion of our existing businesses as a key objective to promote continued economic growth.

Program Overview

The City of Shoreview, through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), is making funds available to provide low-interest rate loans to existing Shoreview business owners for the purposes of building expansion and renovation that results in the retention or creation of new employment with the City. The source for the funds comes from expanded tax increment authority which requires all loans to be executed and construction to begin by July 1, 2011 and funds expended by December 31, 2011.

Loan Amount

The EDA will loan up to 30% of the total project cost with a minimum loan amount of \$30,000 and maximum of \$500,000.

Interest Rate

The interest rate for the term of the loan is 3.0%.

Term

The maximum term for building construction and structural renovations is 15 years. The maximum term for machinery, equipment, and fixtures is 10 years.

Eligible Properties

Businesses must be located within the City of Shoreview.

Eligible Projects

Loans for land, building, machinery, equipment and leasehold improvements. Funds may not be used for refinancing existing indebtedness, personal property items, working capital, and previously completed projects.

Eligible Borrowers

Owners of the property being improved are eligible to apply for funding. Businesses that lease space must have written permission from the building owner for the proposed tenant improvements.

Loan Security

Personal and/or Corporate Guaranty(s) are required. In order to assist local business with meeting equity



requirements and securing private financing, the City will not file a lien and/or mortgage.

Total Project Cost

It is the borrower's responsibility to obtain the amount of funds necessary to finance the entire cost of the work. In the event the final bill exceeds the

original loan amount, the recipient must obtain the additional funds.

Application Processing

Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Applications will then be reviewed and ranked by City staff and the EDA according to the following criteria:

Selection Criteria:

- Projects must generate new sustainable employment opportunities.
- Projects that provide for job retention, where job loss is demonstrable.
- Projects which are part of an overall expansion project.
- Projects which allow for diversification and introduction of a new product or service.
- Projects that encourage private (re) investment in the community.
- Projects that accomplish other public purposes as determined by the EDA and City Council.

Work Completion

All work must be completed within 180 days of loan closing. Construction must begin by July 1, 2011.

See the City's website for application information at www.shoreviewmn.gov.

Recycling Changes for 2011

Allied Waste Services will be Shoreview's new recycling provider. The first official pickup week will be the week of January 10. By now all residents should have received their new blue recycling bin. If you have not, call Allied Waste Services at 952.941.5174. In addition, Waste Management should have picked up the old green carts. If you still have an old cart or have any other questions, call Shoreview Public Works at 651.490.4650.

Peggy Wedell Named Shoreview Citizen of the Year



Peggy Wedell was named 2010 Shoreview Citizen of the Year at the annual Shoreview Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, November 16. Peggy is pictured with Mayor Sandy Martin. Peggy enjoys gardening, going to the community center, genealogy and of course volunteering in the community!



The Shoreview City Council named long-time resident and community volunteer Peggy Wedell as the Shoreview Citizen of the Year at the annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner held on November 16th. With many of her family in attendance, the award was presented to Peggy by Mayor Sandy Martin. A resident of Shoreview since 1961, Peggy was married for more than 50 years to the late Richard Wedell, Mayor of Shoreview from 1978-1991. Peggy, the mother of (Lisa, Linda, Laura and Mike) and grandmother of 8 has been a community volunteer in almost every venue.

Always putting her community first, Peggy has volunteered with the Shoreview Historical Society, served on many City committees, and other community organizations including the Vietnamese Neighborhood Welcoming Committee, United Way volunteer, PTA member, Island Lake School volunteer, Como Park Conservatory and a Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff Community Affairs Officer. In addition to her service to the community through the many civic organizations, Peggy has organized the Moms & Tots Skating program and a Shoreview 4-H club.

Graduating from Ancker Hospital School of Nursing, Peggy had a long career as a registered nurse. She was also employed at the University of Minnesota as a Health Researcher from 1973-1984. Peggy continued her passion of nursing and worked as a Neighborhood Developmentally Disabled House Volunteer Nurse. "I cannot think of a better living description of the Shoreview Citizen of the Year award, than Peggy Wedell," said Mayor Sandy Martin.

The nomination for Peggy stated "Shoreview has always utilized a population, which includes citizens with a keen sense of quality in neighborhoods, organizations, schools, churches, businesses and recreation. From first moving to Shoreview, Peggy has maintained a clear vision of a quality community and made as many contributions as she could to build, maintain and improve the community. She brings a large measure of the personal qualities necessary to be an effective citizen."

The Shoreview Citizen of the Year award began during the City's 50th anniversary. This award was created to identify, honor and reinforce the activities of exceptional caring citizens whose service or performance exemplifies the spirit of giving back to their community and fellow Shoreview residents. Each year the City Council accepts nominations of such individuals and announces the winner at the annual Volunteer Recognition event. Past recipients of the Shoreview Citizen of the Year honor include: Mary Hilfiker (2007), Bill Farrell and Karen Eckman (2008) and Jacci Krebsbach and Kent Peterson (2009).

Shoreview salutes the Citizen of the Year: Peggy Wedell

Shoreview Human Rights Fourth Grade

"One Community of Many Colors"
Poster Contest

**Winners will be announced at the
February 22 City Council Meeting
and broadcast on CTV Channel 16.**



Learn About the Environment Around Where You Live

Would you like to know more about issues that are affecting our lakes, ponds, trees and natural areas? Shoreview's Environmental Quality Committee can help.

This winter and spring the Committee is sponsoring a series of free presentations with information on various issues that are affecting the environment around where you live.

Water Contaminants in Minnesota Lakes January 19, 7 pm | City Council Chambers Richard Keisling – U. S. Geological Survey

You may have heard the stories about chemicals in waterbodies that are harming aquatic life. We'll have information from the latest studies monitoring emerging contaminants, including compounds with endocrine disrupting potential and what this means for you.



Buckthorn: Identification, Impacts, Control February 16, 7 pm | City Council Chambers Laura Van Riper, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator, MNDNR

Buckthorn is a non-native plant that has been classified as a noxious weed in Minnesota and can be found in many parts of Shoreview. It can quickly out compete beneficial native plants. Areas infested with buckthorn usually lack other vegetation, which can result in soil erosion and affect wildlife. Learn how it can affect the environment and what you can do to control the spread of buckthorn.



Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota March 16, 7 pm | City Council Chambers Mark Abrahamson, Entomologist, MN State Dept. of Agriculture

A little green bug is threatening to wipe out many trees in Shoreview and Minnesota. We'll have the latest information on where emerald ash borer has been found in the state, the impacts it is having, what is being done about it in Shoreview and the rest of the state, and what you can do about trees on your property.



TBD
April 20

Rondo Community Land Trust Rondo Offers Help to Qualified Residents

Rondo CLT is a non-profit, community-based organization operating in suburban Ramsey County that creates and preserves homeownership for low and moderate income households. Rondo provides access to home ownership for those who cannot afford homes that are for sale on the real estate market and prevents existing homeowners from entering into foreclosure by becoming part of the Rondo CLT land trust.

Rondo CLT's mission is achieved a number of different ways: through the acquisition and rehabilitation of properties in disrepair; the construction of new homes; by working directly with homebuyers by providing purchase price buy-down and rehabilitation grants for houses for sale within the community; and by partnering with other housing developers, to bring permanent affordability to their projects.

The "land trust" means that the homeowner owns the house, and the land trust owns the land, therefore land trust homes are more affordable than houses on the open real estate market.



Rondo Community Land Trust

Homeowners complete a "ground lease" when they purchase the house and lease the land from Rondo CLT. Rondo CLT helps qualified households purchase and fix-up single-family homes with help of up to \$50,000 in grants. The homebuyer must also agree to a limited equity appreciation formula so that the house will remain affordable for future generations.

For further information please visit the Rondo website at www.rondoclt.org or contact Greg Finzell at greg@rondoclt.org or 651-221-9884.



NOW AVAILABLE!

On-line Membership Renewal

Members renewing to the same membership pass can now renew on-line.

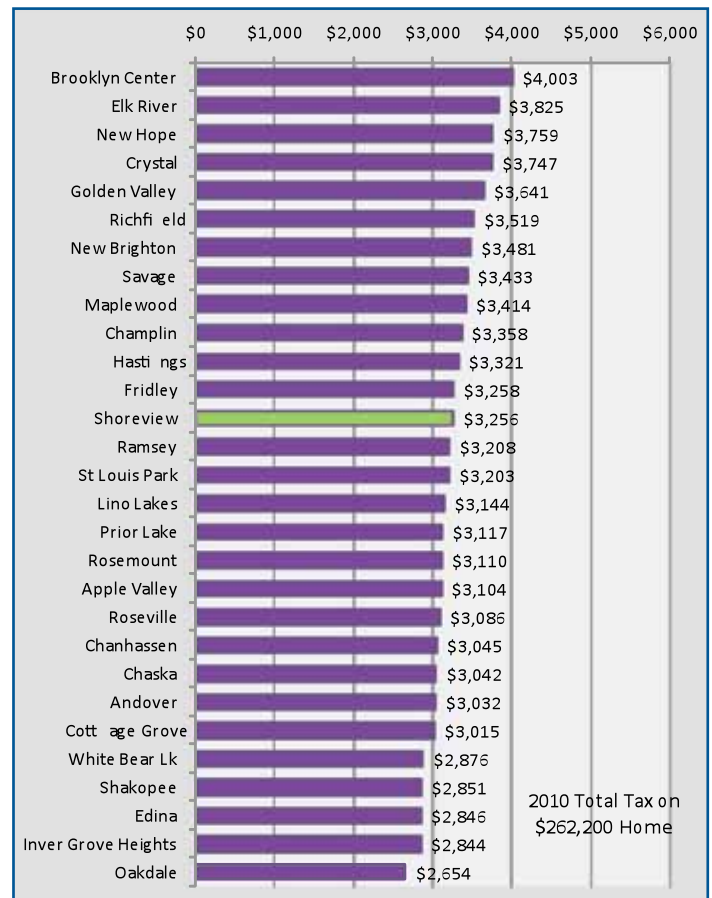
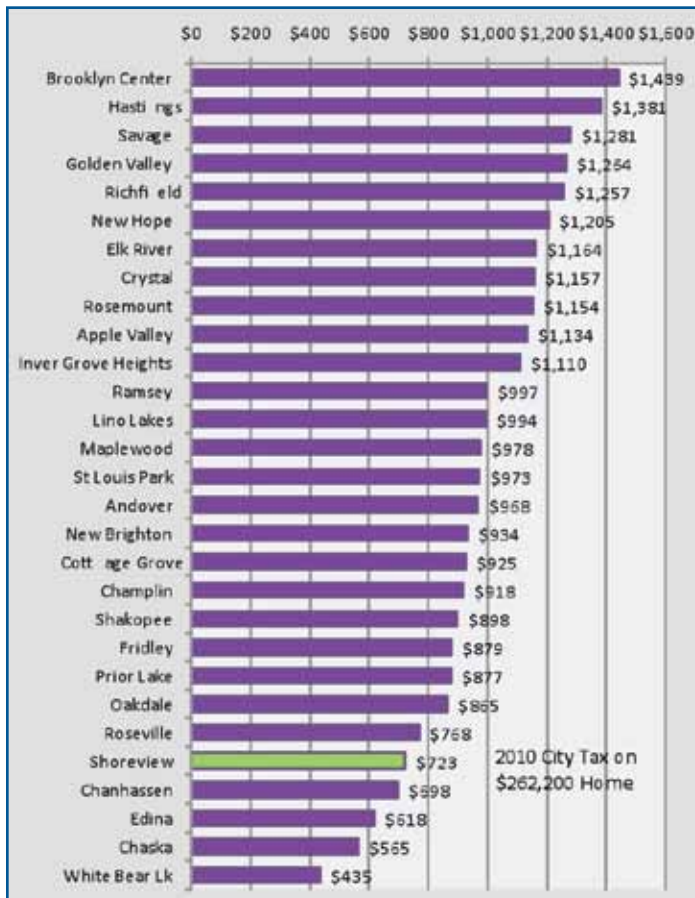
*Shoreview
Community Center*

Tropics Waterpark
& Fitness Center

www.shoreviewcommunitycenter.com
651-490-4750



Community Benchmarks: How Does Shoreview Compare Financially?



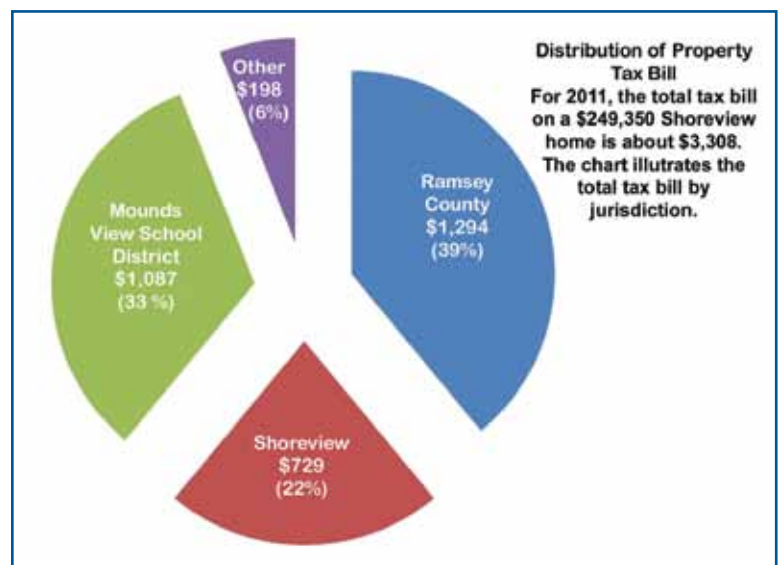
City Property Taxes and Spending Rank Favorably

Each year the City's finance department prepares a pamphlet that reviews Shoreview's property taxes and spending in relation to 28 similar sized metro-area communities. Communities with population levels closest to Shoreview are selected, choosing 14 cities larger and 14 cities smaller.

As shown on the City tax chart, Shoreview's 2010 property taxes on a median valued home of \$262,200 rank 5th lowest at \$723, about 27% below the average City tax of \$985.

The total property tax bill that a Shoreview homeowner pays is actually .2% above average (see chart) for these same comparison cities. This is because property taxes for the Mounds View School District are close to the average for metro-area school districts while County and special district property taxes are well above average.

Shoreview's spending per capita ranks 3rd lowest at \$965, and is 35% below the average of \$1,487.

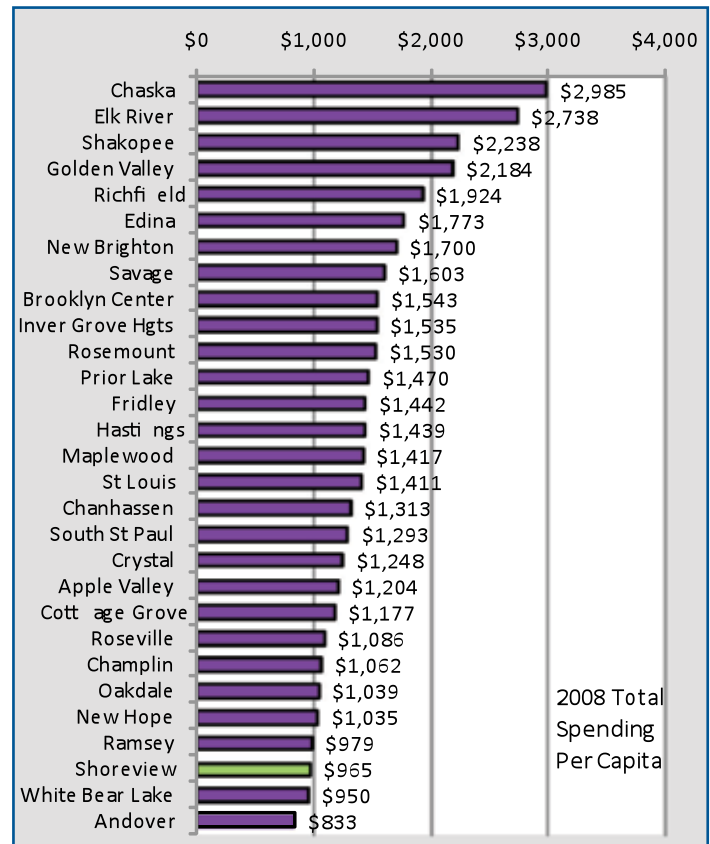


2008 Per Capita Spending	Average	Shoreview	Shoreview to Average	
			Dollars	Percent
General government	\$ 97.14	\$ 68.30	\$ (28.84)	-29.7%
Public safety	215.73	86.42	(129.31)	-59.9%
Public works	94.02	70.79	(23.23)	-24.7%
Parks & recreation	117.68	224.47	106.79	90.7%
Community development	55.43	92.38	36.95	66.7%
Miscellaneous governmental	17.81	25.12	7.31	41.0%
Water/sewer/storm/street light	220.70	223.18	2.48	1.1%
Electric enterprise	113.34	-	(113.34)	-100.0%
All other enterprise	25.06	-	(25.06)	-100.0%
Debt payments	169.78	89.12	(80.66)	-47.5%
Capital outlay	360.07	85.38	(274.69)	-76.3%
Total Spending per capita	\$1,486.76	\$ 965.16	\$ (521.60)	-35.1%

Shoreview's total spending per capita is also very low in relation to the cities included in the comparison group in 2008 (the most recent year available). According to data from the State Auditor (as shown in the table and chart), Shoreview's spending per capita ranks 3rd lowest at \$965, and is 35% below the average of \$1,487. Shoreview's spending on general government activities and public safety are well below the average. The public safety spending is low because Shoreview contracts for police services from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, and contracts for fire protection from the Lake Johanna Fire Department.

Shoreview has the highest spending level in the parks and recreation area due to the community center and its extensive recreation program offerings; however, nearly 90% of the operating spending for the community center and recreation programs is covered by user fees, so there is not a significant impact on the property tax levy as a result of this higher spending level.

Shoreview's favorable property tax and spending rankings have been fairly consistent during the years in which these



benchmarks have been examined. For more information see the Community Benchmarks pamphlet on the City's website at www.shoreviewmn.gov.

It should be noted that the property tax estimates quoted in this article are before allocation of the state market value homestead credit (MVHC) allocated to all taxing jurisdictions (because the allocation of the credit varies from city to city). The credit reduced total property taxes on a \$262,200 home \$136. Shoreview's share of the allocation was \$34 for 2010.



28 cents for Public Safety

21 cents for Replacement Funds

20 cents for Parks and Recreation

10 cents for General Government

8 cents for Public Works

8 cents for Debt Service

3 cents for Community Development

1 cent for Capital Improvements

1 cent for all Miscellaneous combined



City of Shoreview
4600 Victoria Street North
Shoreview, MN 55126

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 5606



Kids Corner Preschool

...discovering your child's potential



**2011-2012 School Year
REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE**
Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011
6 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Shoreview Community Center

Calling all 2 1/2 - 5 year olds! Our preschool program offers your child a variety of fun and educational activities designed to stimulate their social and intellectual development as they move along the road to Kindergarten. School year dates are September 12, 2011 - May 25th, 2012. **To determine class availability and for a registration form please call 651-490-4750 or visit our website.** A \$50 non-refundable registration fee is required at the time of registration. *This fee is not applied toward tuition.*

Mark your calendar for
The Taste of Slice

Join your neighbors at the *Taste of Slice* and sample delicious food from area restaurants, sign up for drawings, bid on silent auction items, and hear news about the 2011 Slice of Shoreview celebration.
Cash bar available.

Thursday
February 24, 2011

4:30-7:30 p.m.

\$15 per person in advance

\$20 per person at the door

Shoreview Community Center
4580 N. Victoria St
Shoreview, MN 55126
www.sliceofshoreview.com

Register at www.shoreviewmn.gov - online payments



City Council

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And the survey says...



**96 % of residents
rank the City's
Quality of Life as
EXCELLENT or
GOOD.**

Visit www.shoreviewmn.gov
for survey results.